



# FIGHT, TIGER . . .

**MIZZOU'S FOOTBALL FOLLOWERS** are a resilient lot. Euphoric after the sensational opening game win over Alabama, the fans were crushed, disappointed, grumbly, and just plain teed off after the Tigers lost ignobly to Kansas in the final game of the season. The possibilities that Missouri may have been the best 6-5 team in the nation, played the toughest schedule in the country and was the most exciting team to watch in many years were little solace in December. There were dire predictions that the gate — which broke all records in '75 with an average attendance of 64,000+ — would suffer.

Not so, apparently. Public season ticket sales already have reached a new high. Enthusiasm is rampant throughout the state. Mizzou fans are looking forward to the football weekends in Columbia — the color, the bands, the parties, the tailgate picnics, the visits with old friends. They may be simply assuring their seats for next year when Southern California, Oklahoma and Nebraska are on the home schedule. There won't be any more seating at Faurot Field in 1977. The plans for stadium expansion are bogged down in a dispute between the physical facilities committee of the Board of Curators and the athletic department. But, most of all, the fans of this Bicentennial Year are anticipating another exciting Tiger team once again playing one of the nation's most demanding schedules.

**COACH AL ONOFRIO'S OFFENSE** even may be more potent than a year ago when it led the conference in passing and averaged over 25 points per game. Quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz set records last year. And, although he wasn't up to par in the spring practice-windup game, his overall performance during the spring was excellent. Zark's accuracy had improved and he was more effective executing the action pass. Henry Marshall, 1975's premier pass catcher is now with the Kansas City Chiefs, but the overall ability of the receiving corps may be better. Tony Galbreath will be doing his running for the New Orleans Saints, but a heel injury reduced Tony's effectiveness last season, and the emergence of Curtis Brown gives Missouri a classy tailback.

If there is a nagging worry about the offense, it is the offensive interior line. Not the first string — they're solid. But the drop-off in ability between the first and second teamers is substantial. The Tigers can ill afford injuries to its center, tackles, and guards.

There's more than just a nagging worry about the

defense. It must improve if Mizzou has any chance of bettering its 6-5 record of a year ago. Last season, Tiger defenders had trouble tackling people. Except for the Alabama game, a running quarterback gave Missouri fits. The noseguard situation was never really solved. In the Big Eight, the Tigers finished the season seventh in rushing defense, sixth in total defense and sixth in defense against scoring. Only Kansas State and Iowa State were worse.

To the casual observer, the spring game gave little reason for optimism as far as the defense was concerned. The Black and Gold teams put 82 points on the board. Often, tackling wasn't crisp. But two factors need to be considered: One, several players being counted on were out with injuries; and, two, the Tigers had spread themselves pretty thin in order to field two complete defensive teams. The hope is that the injured will return healthy — and that they'll stay that way. If they do, Onofrio and his staff should be able to put together one adequate defensive unit. The key may be Keith Morrissey. A star tackle in the Alabama game, he was lost for much of the remaining season because of injuries. Since then, the talented junior has had surgery on both knees. If he can play this year with his same quickness, recklessness and savvy, the Tiger cause will be enhanced. A healthy Morrissey will enable Randy Frisch to move to noseguard and perhaps solve a problem that has plagued Missouri for the past two campaigns.

For the third time in six seasons, there also will be changes in Onofrio's coaching staff. For the first time in 30 years, Clay Cooper will not be coaching Tiger football. He has moved to a full-time administrative position. His place as defensive backfield coach has been taken over by a Cooper protege, Vince Tobin. Tobin's post as end and linebacker coach has gone to a new addition, Don Lawrence, formerly of Texas Christian and once head coach at Virginia. Tony Kopay has moved on to "bigger and better" things. His offensive line chores have been divided up between Curtis Jones and Tony Steponovich, up from the junior varsity. Dave McGinnis, a graduate assistant last year, takes over the junior varsity.

**AND ED DISSINGER**, the academic advisor, has retired. Dissinger was an acknowledged master of keeping Tiger players eligible and moving toward degrees. His loss may be more severe than Marshall, Galbreath and defensive standout Kenny Downing combined.

# EVERYONE IS WITH YOU'

# OFFENSE

But regardless of the coaches and players or their levels of ability, the overriding question about all of Onofrio's teams is: Will they play with consistency? So far they haven't. In the past four seasons, there have been great victories — some of the finest in Tiger history — and some ignominious defeats — some of the most humiliating ever for Missouri teams. In 1975 there was the tremendous win over Alabama, the glory-in-defeat loss to Oklahoma, and the wipeouts by Michigan, Nebraska and Kansas.

**ONOFRIO CONCEDES** the inconsistency is “disappointing and frustrating.” He thinks the back-breaking schedule and the absence of overwhelming talent, especially in depth, contributed to this tendency. But, he says, we do have good people and it's the coaches' job to help them establish a solid mental foundation of confidence.

They'll need that in 1976, because there certainly is no relief in the schedule. On the road: Southern Cal, Ohio State, Nebraska, and defending national champion Oklahoma — not to mention Oklahoma State.

**AND, THEN, THERE'S KANSAS.** Onofrio teams have lost to the Jayhawks four out of five seasons. Kansas will field a strong team in 1976. After last year's rout of Mizzou by the Jayhawks, there was some talk of not renewing Onofrio's contract. More patient heads prevailed, and Al was given a year's extension. But as *Post-Dispatch* sports editor Bob Broeg observed, “Ultimately . . . Onofrio will have to beat bitter rival Kansas more often.”

Beginning his sixth year, Coach Al is somewhat philosophical. He would like to beat Kansas every year, of course. “The fans deserve a great season,” he says, “and I hope they can have it.”

Last spring in a St. Louis shop, Onofrio came upon framed copies of a couple of Lincoln quotations. They now are hanging in his office.

“I shall not try to read, much less answer all the criticism of me and my associates,” Abraham Lincoln said, “else this office might as well be closed for any other business.”

And the other: “I do the very best I know how — the very best I can and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten thousand angels swearing I was right would make no difference.” —*Steve Shinn*

## QUARTERBACK

- (15) Steve Pisarkiewicz\* 6'3" 205 Sr. Ferguson  
*Great passer. Lacks mobility. Extremely accurate in spring.*  
(18) Pete Woods\* 6'3" 210 Jr. University City  
*Probably will redshirt unless something happens to Zark.*  
(12) Monte Montgomery 6'3" 190 So. Manhattan, Kas.  
(19) Mark Capra 6'3" 192 So. KC (St. Pius X)  
(11) Paul Miller 6'3" 200 So. Farley

## TAILBACK

- (25) Curtis Brown\* 5'11" 200 Sr. St. Charles  
*One of the top runners around, he also is improving as receiver.*  
(43) Jernel Williams\* 5'11" 193 Sr. St. Louis (Beaumont)  
(24) Dean Leibson 6'1" 191 Jr. Corning, N.Y.  
(23) Earl Gant 6'2" 200 So. Peoria, Ill.

## FULLBACK

- (33) Richard Dansdill\* 6'4" 225 So. Burlington, Iowa  
*Still needs experience, but no one took the job away from him.*  
(35) Patrick Watson 6'0" 208 Sr. Peoria, Ill.  
(39) Thomas McBride 6'2" 225 So. Springfield, Ill.  
(32) Annise Davis\* 5'11" 208 Jr. Malden  
*Late 1974 starter returns after year's layoff.*

# DEFENSE

## RIGHT END

- (94) Steve Hamilton 6'3" 225 So. St. Louis (Central)  
*Quick, tough newcomer difficult to block out of play.*  
(95) Blaine Henningsen\*\* 6'3" 209 Sr. Richmond  
(96) Gene Twellman 6'3" 215 Jr. Bowling Green

## LEFT END

- (93) Dale Smith\*\* 6'1½" 209 Sr. Columbia (Hickman)  
(56) David Legg\*\* 6'1" 195 Jr. Kansas City (North)  
(90) Scott Harrell 6'3" 210 So. Poplar Bluff

## RIGHT TACKLE

- (91) Randy Frisch\*\* 6'4" 238 Sr. St. Louis (Vianney)  
*Will move to nose guard if Morrissey comes back healthy.*  
(74) Keith Morrissey\* 6'5" 230 Jr. Gallatin  
*Early season star in 1975 is back after two knee operations.*  
(63) Douglas Seymour 6'3" 235 Sr. Toronto, Canada  
(73) Terry Wingbermuehle 6'4" 235 So. Imperial

# FRESHMEN

- Kenneth Blair (WR) 6'2" 190 Oklahoma City (Classen)  
*All-star scored eight TDs as a senior.*  
Lester Dickey III (LB) 6'2½" 215 Kansas City (Southeast)  
*Midterm grad listed as No. 4 left linebacker for varsity.*  
Frank Farley (T) 6'3" 255 Florissant  
*Football and track captain also played basketball.*  
Gary Forrest (FB) 6'1" 195 Webster Groves  
*Rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a senior.*  
Kent Gibson (E) 6'3" 205 Columbia (Rock Bridge)  
*Three-year starter for State 3-A champions.*  
James Kent Hart (LB) 6'2" 218 Houston, Mo.  
*All-conference in both junior and senior years.*

**SLOTBACK**

(45) Joe Stewart**	5'11"	180	Jr.	Evanston, Ill.
<i>Fastest Tiger made tremendous improvement in spring.</i>				
(20) Pete Blake	6'0"	183	Jr.	Bridgeton
(31) Rich Lan	6'2"	178	Sr.	Morton Grove, Ill.
(16) Paul Scherman	6'0"	185	Jr.	Cape Girardeau
(4) Charlie Burge	5'11"	180	So.	Dayton, Ohio

**WIDE RECEIVER**

(80) Lamont Downer	6'3"	186	So.	University City
<i>Shows more authority as a runner after catching the ball.</i>				
(10) Leo Lewis*	5'9"	160	So.	Columbia (Hickman)
<i>Exciting all-around player, punt returner makes things happen.</i>				
(88) Percy McBride	6'3"	190	Sr.	Fulton

**TIGHT END**

(83) Kellen Winslow	6'6"	228	So.	E. St. Louis, Ill.
<i>Good receiver needs to upgrade blocking.</i>				
(85) Michael Williams	6'3"	210	Sr.	Bluffs, Ill.
(95) John McDonald*	6'3"	215	Jr.	Webster Groves
(87) Oliver Burbridge	6'4 1/2"	230	Jr.	St. Louis (Vashon)
(89) Michael Owens	6'5"	215	So.	Mt. Vernon

**RIGHT TACKLE**

(75) Morris Towns**	6'4"	260	Sr.	St. Louis (Vashon)
<i>Combines with Taylor to give Mizzou one of the finest pair of tackles in the nation.</i>				
(55) Pete Allard*	6'3"	240	So.	Chicago, Ill
<i>Could figure in switch to center.</i>				
(78) John Gourley	6'3"	235	Jr.	Overland Park, Ks.
Steven Parks	6'5"	245	So.	Littleton, Colo.
(70) Dennis Disselhoff	6'7"	245	So.	Kansas City (North)

**LEFT TACKLE**

(72) Curtis Kirkland	6'6"	235	Sr.	Gary, Ind.
<i>First-class athlete showed well in spring.</i>				
(69) Doug Bentlage	6'3"	245	Sr.	Union
(79) Donald Cole*	6'4"	230	Jr.	Springfield
(86) Ron Suda	6'4"	235	So.	St. L. (St. Mary's)
(98) Kurt Petersen	6'4"	230	So.	St. L. (Lutheran No.)
(82) Tony Bekemeier	6'1"	225	So.	Arnold (Fox)

**NOSE GUARD**

(60) Kurt Wolfenberger	6'2"	228	So.	Marietta, Ga.
(48) Ronald Ghrist	6'2"	230	Jr.	Pittsfield, Ill.
(92) Rickie Sutherland (J)	6'2 1/2"	245	Jr.	St. Louis (Beaumont)
<i>Missed most of spring because of knee injury, but showed good quickness before being hurt.</i>				
(53) William Anderson*	6'0"	223	Jr.	University City

**RIGHT LINEBACKER**

(52) Mark Kirkpatrick**	6'2"	212	Sr.	Wood River, Ill.
<i>Late season starter in '75 had encouraging spring.</i>				
(38) Timothy Helm	6'1"	217	Sr.	Decatur, Ill.
(49) Ward Billings	5'10"	205	Jr.	Kennett
(36) Eric Berg	6'2"	210	So.	Rolla

**LEFT LINEBACKER**

(57) Tom Hodge*	6'2"	212	Sr.	East Gary, Ind.
<i>Rested knee during spring. Tigers best linebacker in '75.</i>				
(68) Chris Garlich*	6'1"	205	So.	Overland Park, Ks.
(47) Billy Bess	6'3"	215	So.	Flat River
<i>Shows a lot of promise and will be team's No. 5 linebacker.</i>				

Larry Hemkens (T)	6'5"	230	St. Louis (St. Mary's)
<i>Won all-city honors.</i>			
Roger Hewlett (LB)	6'3"	210	Joliet, Ill.
<i>All-state and all-Chicago area selection.</i>			
Kevin Hoffert (DB)	6'5"	205	St. Louis (Rosary)
<i>Won three letters each in football, basketball and track.</i>			
Stephen Honig (C)	6'4"	235	Lockport, Ill.
<i>All-area player for two years also played tennis.</i>			
Tim Hornof (FB)	6'3"	222	Creve Coeur (DeSmet)
<i>All-metro selection gained 902 yards last season.</i>			
Gregory Houston (T)	6'3"	270	Warrenton
<i>Had 104 tackles as a senior.</i>			
Christopher Keller (T)	6'3"	235	Jacksonville, Ill.
<i>Won honors in football, basketball, and baseball.</i>			
Stan Lechner (T-G)	6'3"	220	Aurora
<i>Picked team's top offensive lineman.</i>			
Gillis Leonard (WR)	6'4"	215	Harrisonville
<i>All-star was also all-America in basketball.</i>			
John Massey Jr. (FB-DE)	6'3"	200	Columbia (Rock Bridge)
<i>Won all-state honors as a defensive end.</i>			

**LEFT TACKLE**

(76) James Taylor*	6'5"	225	Jr.	Peoria, Ill.
(62) Bruce Whitmer*	6'3"	245	Jr.	KC (Winnetonka)
(71) Garry Hiebert (J)	6'4"	240	Jr.	Townanda, Ks.
William Giltner	6'3"	235	So.	Colorado Springs

**RIGHT GUARD**

(65) Tom Kowalczyk**	6'3"	245	Sr.	St. Louis (Southwest)
<i>Has necessary size, strength.</i>				
(67) Daniel Doyle*	6'2"	240	Sr.	Decatur, Ill.
(64) Mark Jones	6'2"	230	So.	Arenzville, Ill.
Dave Guender	6'3"	235	So.	Berwyn, Pa.

**LEFT GUARD**

(77) Joel Yearian**	6'3"	240	Sr.	Woodridge, Ill.
<i>As good as any in Big Eight.</i>				
(61) Mark Wahlmeier (J)	6'4"	235	Jr.	Hays, Ks.

**CENTER**

(51) Larry McDevitt*	6'1"	240	Sr.	St. Louis (Mercy)
<i>Persistent blocker making consistent improvement.</i>				
(58) Randy Wepler	6'5"	235	So.	Liberty
(66) Martin Engman*	6'1 1/2"	205	Sr.	Liberty
(54) Mark Clark	6'2"	235	So.	Florissant

**PUNTER**

(26) Steve Blau (J)	6'3"	183	Jr.	Westlake Vill., Calif.
(12) Monte Montgomery	6'3"	190	So.	Manhattan, Ks.
(11) Paul Miller	6'3"	200	So.	Farley

**PLACEKICKER**

( 9) Tim Gibbons**	5'11"	182	Sr.	St. Louis (U-High)
<i>Accurate kicker provides offense with added dimension.</i>				
( 5) Anthony Gle	5'10"	180	So.	Durban, South Africa

**RIGHT CORNERBACK**

( 2) Bruce Carter**	6'4"	190	Sr.	St. Louis (Maplewood)
<i>Covers split receiver well; seemed to improve tackling during spring practice.</i>				
( 8) Terry Newman	5'11"	168	So.	Columbia (Hickman)
(21) Paul Shortal	5'11"	168	So.	St. Louis (DeSmet)

**LEFT CORNERBACK**

(41) Rob Fitzgerald**	6'0"	178	Sr.	Springfield
(17) Russ Calabrese	6'1"	182	So.	Dolton, Ill.
Bill McCormick	5'9"	176	So.	Pasadena, Calif.

**RIGHT SAFETY**

(27) Charles Banta**	6'1"	180	Sr.	Springfield
<i>Mizzou's most consistent player in secondary.</i>				
(40) James Leavitt**	6'2"	182	Jr.	St. Petersburg, Fla.
<i>Last season's starter excused from spring practice to play baseball. May also figure at corner back.</i>				
(14) Mark Phillips	5'11"	190	Jr.	Peoria, Ill.
(29) Daniel Whitaker	6'2"	175	Sr.	Peoria, Ill.

**LEFT SAFETY**

( 7) Mike Newman**	6'0"	174	Sr.	Columbia (Hickman)
( 6) Larry Davis*	5'11"	178	Jr.	East Peoria, Ill.
(22) Steve Mally	6'1"	188	Jr.	Chicago, Ill.
(46) Gerald Williams*	5'11"	183	Sr.	Raytown (South)

\*Number of years lettered

(J) Junior College Transfer

Jim Matthews (T)	Overland Park, Ks.
<i>Unanimous all-state choice both offensively and defensively.</i>	
Mark McIntosh (QB)	5'11" 180 Raytown (South)
<i>Totalled 4,889 rush-and-pass yards in three seasons.</i>	
Jonathan Merriweather (T)	6'4" 240 Kirkwood
<i>Played both ways and figured in 91 tackles last year season.</i>	
Ray Miller (DE)	6'3" 230 Kansas City (Grandview)
<i>All-state defensive end.</i>	
Ralph Mitchell (DB-WR)	5'10" 180 Charleston
<i>Speediest freshman has been timed in .96.</i>	
Steve Morgner (E)	6'6" 218 St. Louis (Lindberg)
<i>Second-team all-star also a star in shotgun, discus.</i>	
Mike Moss (TB)	5'9 1/2" 202 Poplar Bluff
<i>Rushed for over 3,800 yards during prep career.</i>	
Dave Newman (HB)	6'0" 170 Columbia (Hickman)
<i>All-star has two brothers on Tiger team.</i>	
Chip Powell (DB)	5'10" 180 St. Louis (Vianney)
<i>All-star had 1,100 yards rushing as a senior.</i>	
Mark Veltin (C)	6'1" 230 St. Louis (Ladue)
<i>All-conference and all-district selection.</i>	